

**INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION**  
**PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**  
**LABOR ARCHIVES OF WASHINGTON**  
**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**  
**LLOYD HUTTON OF ILWU LOCAL 13**

**INTERVIEWEE:** LLOYD HUTTON

**INTERVIEWERS:** HARVEY SCHWARTZ

**SUBJECTS:** KOREAN WAR; CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION; WORKING ON THE WATERFRONT; CARGO FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN; LOADING COTTON; LOADING COPRA; LOADING HIDES; 1971 STRIKE.

**LOCATION:** LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

**INTERVIEW LENGTH:** 00:26:38

**FILE NAME:** HuttonLloyd\_PCPA\_2017\_Audio\_6194-005.mp3

[00:00:00] **HARVEY SCHWARTZ:** This is Harvey Schwartz. I'm with Lloyd Hutton. We're in Long Beach, California, September 16, 2017. This may be part of the ILWU Oral History Project housed in San Francisco or the Pensioners Association Oral History Project. Lloyd, can I ask you when you were born and where you were born?

[00:00:36] **LLOYD HUTTON:** I was born in Rugby, North Dakota on August 9, 1932.

[00:00:46] **HARVEY:** Tell me something about your growing up. First of all, what countries were your parents from?

[00:00:50] **LLOYD:** My grandmother and my grandfather came from Norway. My grandmother was sold as a bond lady in 18... what the hell was it? I can't remember, 18-something. He paid her passage, so she worked for him for 10 years.

[00:01:17] **HARVEY:** What exactly is a bond lady?

[00:01:20] **LLOYD:** You would buy her, and she would do your work for you for 10 years, and then she was free to go.

[00:01:25] **HARVEY:** This is like an indentured servant?

[00:01:27] **LLOYD:** Yeah, yeah.

[00:01:28] **HARVEY:** And then you're free to go.

[00:01:28] **LLOYD:** And then you're free to go and do your thing, and then she married my grandfather. He was from Norway also.

[00:01:36] **HARVEY:** Do you know if your grandmother got any benefits as a result of her 10 years of work? Did she get something when she finished her 10 years?

[00:01:43] **LLOYD:** Oh, no, no. You've got to get your ass out the door. That's it. He was a Frenchman, and he had a big ranch, and she couldn't speak French and he couldn't speak English. So he brought home a bunch of prairie chickens to her to cook them. Well, she cooked in the way Norwegian people cook. She picked the feathers off, and put them in the oven and roasted them. He come home and beat the shit out of her. "You're supposed to cook them with the feathers on." [laughing] Oh, yeah, he was tough. He was a tough old guy.

My grandmother on my father's side, she came from Norway also. And my grandfather on my father's side was Scotch-Irish. He came from England someplace. He was Scotch and Irish, I think. My father divorced my mother when I was six, I guess. And he came out here, and I stayed back there till I went in the Army. That was in 1951.

[00:03:30] **HARVEY:** What was it like growing up back there?

[00:03:32] **LLOYD:** Working on the farm and ranches, trying to make a living. The biggest thing there was was about a dollar a day.

[00:03:44] **HARVEY:** What were you doing for a dollar a day?

[00:03:46] **LLOYD:** Whatever you did on a ranch—milk cows, feed the pigs, feed the chickens. That was it.

[00:03:56] **HARVEY:** Did you go to school?

[00:03:57] **LLOYD:** Oh, yeah, you went to school.

[00:03:59] **HARVEY:** What was school like back there?

[00:04:03] **LLOYD:** We had a one-room schoolhouse, one through eight. That was it.

[00:04:08] **HARVEY:** What did you do after the eighth grade?

[00:04:11] **LLOYD:** I was working. I went to high school maybe a year and then I just went to work, and as soon as I was old enough, I volunteered for the draft.

[00:04:28] **HARVEY:** Were your parents involved in politics at all?

[00:04:30] **LLOYD:** Oh, no, no. My mother, we stayed with our grandmother. She had the place. Otherwise we would have been out in the cold. We just stayed on the farm, and her brother farmed the farm and gave her half, a share thing. Like a sharecropper, you know? My uncle would do the farming and then give her half, something to live on.

[00:05:09] **HARVEY:** But there were no politics, no union activity back there?

[00:05:11] **LLOYD:** No, there was no union back there. There still isn't hardly any union back there.

[00:05:15] **HARVEY:** Yeah, of course. You went in the Army in 1951. Where did you go and what did you do in the Army?

[00:05:22] **LLOYD:** I went to Korea. I was in an engineer battalion.

[00:05:31] **HARVEY:** Tell me about the experience of being in Korea at that time.

[00:05:34] **LLOYD:** Cold! Cold! It's actually about like the Midwest. Hot and dry in the summertime and cold and windy in wintertime.

[00:05:49] **HARVEY:** What about combat during the Korean War? What was going on there?

[00:05:57] **LLOYD:** Well, you had to [unintelligible] . That's it. We would fix roads and bridges, things like that.

[00:06:08] **HARVEY:** Any encounters with the North Korean army?

[00:06:11] **LLOYD:** Certainly!

[00:06:12] **HARVEY:** Certainly? What was that like? Describe that. Tell me about it.

[00:06:17] **LLOYD:** Well, they'd shoot at you. That's what they'd do. That was it. You just do your thing. Fight a little here, fight a little over there.

[00:06:30] **HARVEY:** I see. There were some big changes during the Korean War. Did you experience any? There was a big retreat when the—

[00:06:36] **LLOYD:** Oh, yeah, I walked a long ways.

[00:06:38] **HARVEY:** In the cold?

[00:06:41] **LLOYD:** In the cold and in the hot.

[00:06:47] **HARVEY:** Were you in that big early retreat when they—

[00:06:48] **LLOYD:** No, I got there just after that. That was before me.

[00:06:57] **HARVEY:** How long were you in Korea?

[00:06:59] **LLOYD:** Sixteen months.

[00:07:03] **HARVEY:** Any highlight that you can remember from being in Korea?

[00:07:08] **LLOYD:** Yeah, I got out alive. [laughing]

[00:07:13] **HARVEY:** That's pretty good.

[00:07:14] **LLOYD:** Yeah!

[00:07:17] **HARVEY:** Any friends shot? Any friends or colleagues shot?

[00:07:20] **LLOYD:** I'll tell you what. This friend of mine, he went in the service before I did, or he volunteered. There was a big deal going on. If you joined the National Guard, you got—I can't remember what it was. You got \$20? I think it was \$20, and then you'd get so much if you go once a week. I almost did it, too. They all joined the National Guard to get the \$20. It wasn't bad, but with the Korean War, it wasn't so good then. Anyway, I take my basic training, and I get over to Korea.

[00:08:10] **HARVEY:** It's better than [playing with the cord?] .

[00:08:12] **LLOYD:** Thank you. [laughing] And I say to myself, you know, you've got the repo depots, you know. And these guys, you'd line up and the guy went down the line and he said, "Okay, you guys, so and so and so." There was not much of it. There was no banging or popping or anything. So we get up there and, by god, we get on the train then. This was in Pusan. Then we go north. We get on another train, and about four or five hours later, we get off. Then you could hear the popping and banging.

We get to this place and there's a guy with a piece of chalk. He'd write on your helmet where you're going. I had 120 on mine, so there was a truck over there that had 120 on it, so that's where I went. So we piled all that stuff in there and we go and we get up to the CP [command post] , and I get up there and there's all—we've got to walk a little ways because the truck could only go so far. It was uphill. So we got out and we start walking, and here this litter Jeep comes by and it had four guys in it. What the hell, no big deal, until it went up a little hill. It went up a little bit of hill and the one litter in the bottom, the blood just all ran off. And I looked down on it, and he had a brand-new pair of shoes on. That's what's stuck in my head. They were hardly dirty. And we get up to the CP there and there's all these bodies lined up there. And I looked down, this one guy is my buddy, David [Hammond?] .

[00:10:21] **HARVEY:** My god. Is CP command post?

[00:10:26] **LLOYD:** Yeah, it's command post. There was Charlie Company. Yeah. I just spent the rest of my time in there. Ugh. When I came out—

[00:10:46] **HARVEY:** Did your buddy ever recover?

[00:10:47] **LLOYD:** Oh, no. Once you're laying lined up like that, it's all over with.

[00:10:54] **HARVEY:** Okay.

[00:10:55] **LLOYD:** I went to work for Vegetable Oil, and that was in Wilmington.

[00:11:01] **HARVEY:** Is this 51 or 52, or a little later?

[00:11:05] **LLOYD:** Maybe 53, maybe something like that. I can't remember. And I worked there till I got my ID card.

[00:11:14] **HARVEY:** What did you do there? What kind of work?

[00:11:17] **LLOYD:** I was a cleaner-upper. I swept the floors and cleaned the [presses?] . You know? It was not a high-skill job, but it paid on Friday. I belonged to the Chemical Workers Union there. That was the Chemical Workers Union.

[00:11:40] **HARVEY:** How did you ever get that job?

[00:11:42] **LLOYD:** Well, in those days, my dad had two houses, and he rented one of them. And the guy that he rented the house to was a foreman down there at Vegetable Oil. He says, “We need somebody down there today,” so that’s how I got the job.

[00:11:58] **HARVEY:** You say that you were a casual on the waterfront. How did you come to do that?

[00:12:23] **LLOYD:** In those days, you got to be an [ID?] . Somebody had to sponsor you. I was sponsored by a friend of my father’s that they worked on the Catalina. He was an older member and he sponsored me, and that’s when I got my ID card.

[00:12:46] **HARVEY:** What was it like on your first day of work on the waterfront? Do you remember?

[00:12:54] **LLOYD:** Yeah, I caught a banana job. In fact, I worked all my life, so it wasn’t hard work for me. It was just another day at the job, because I worked hard all my life.

[00:13:11] **HARVEY:** What year was this?

[00:13:15] **LLOYD:** This was in 54, 55.

[00:13:25] **HARVEY:** Tell me about what it was like being a longshoreman.

[00:13:27] **LLOYD:** Great.

[00:13:29] **HARVEY:** Why?

[00:13:29] **LLOYD:** Hell, they paid good, and time on time off. Yeah, it was great, and they paid on Friday and paid well. I was happy.

[00:13:46] **HARVEY:** Got it. It was better than Korea.

[00:13:49] **LLOYD:** Ten-four. [laughing]

[00:13:56] **HARVEY:** What was your favorite cargo?

[00:14:02] **LLOYD:** Ping-pong balls. [laughing] No. Oh, I don’t know.

[00:14:10] **HARVEY:** What did you work the most?

[00:14:13] **LLOYD:** Whatever was there. In those days, if you flopped, you didn’t work, so you’d take whatever comes up. There was a lot of cotton, little bales of cotton. Picked copra. Rubber. I had lots of rubber. Hemp. Lots of hemp. Cargo from Europe. Japan just started in the 50s. It just started, shipping cargo to the United States, because before that, it was mostly from Europe. We’d have to [unintelligible] a lot of oranges. Lots and lots of oranges, and they were in wooden crates in those days.

[00:15:03] **HARVEY:** How does one work cotton? What did you do?

[00:15:05] **LLOYD:** They bring it down three bales at a time on the swing. You unhook it and roll it in the [wing?] , just line it up. And then when it gets to where you’re standing up—at the end you stand up to fill the hatch up. Once the hatch is filled, you cover it up and start on the next deck.

[00:15:27] **HARVEY:** How do you stand up cotton?

[00:15:28] **LLOYD:** By hand. They're 550 pounds apiece, so two of you—one on each side—you beam it up.

[00:15:37] **HARVEY:** Did you use hooks on it?

[00:15:40] **LLOYD:** Yeah, you use the hooks to roll them all the time, but not to stand them up.

[00:15:44] **HARVEY:** How do you stand it up by hand?

[00:15:46] **LLOYD:** Just grab it with your hands. Because it's always got a skirt on it, like a burlap skirt. You can hold that burlap and you just stand it up.

[00:15:58] **HARVEY:** How about copra? How did you work copra?

[00:15:59] **LLOYD:** Pick it. Had a back-in machine and a pipe. Then you just pick it and it'd run down in this pipe, and the back-in machine would send it across the street to the copra plant.

[00:16:11] **HARVEY:** Who ran the copra plant at that time? Do you remember?

[00:16:19] **LLOYD:** The one at Vegetable Oil was run by that Chemical Workers Union, and the longshoremen worked up to the pipe that went into the house, and that was the end of their jurisdiction.

[00:16:33] **HARVEY:** How do you break up copra with a pick?

[00:16:42] **LLOYD:** With a pickaxe. It's a sharp—you know what a pickaxe is?

[00:16:44] **HARVEY:** Yes.

[00:16:45] **LLOYD:** Yeah, well, you just pick it like that because it's been compressed in there for I don't know how long. They go one island to the other to pick up this cargo, and then it had mats.

[00:17:00] **HARVEY:** Were they copra beetles or bats?

[00:17:03] **LLOYD:** No, mats. You had to separate—say you were shipping cargo, and you had 200 tons of copra. Well, when the ship come in, it already had copra in it, so you would lay mats down there and then you'd put your copra on top of there. Then you'd ship that off and find out how much that weighed, and that's how the shippers kept track of their cargo.

[00:17:33] **HARVEY:** Were there bugs in the copra?

[00:17:34] **LLOYD:** Oh, yeah, copra bugs. Lots of them.

[00:17:37] **HARVEY:** What were they like?

[00:17:38] **LLOYD:** Like little black flies. And they didn't taste bad. [laughter]

[00:17:49] **HARVEY:** In northern California, in the Bay Area, they used to work 20 minutes and 20 minutes off. One guy would pick, one guy would shovel. Did you do the same thing down here?

[00:17:59] **LLOYD:** Yeah, same thing. It was 20 on, 40 off. Then until my 20, I was cleanup. You tried to clean a little bit, you know. But it was the same thing, same operation.

[00:18:13] **HARVEY:** What was the worst cargo you ever worked, the one that was most unpleasant?

[00:18:19] **LLOYD:** [Unintelligible] skin hides.

[00:18:22] **HARVEY:** Ah, yes. How come?

[00:18:24] **LLOYD:** Because there was about six inches of green slush with maggots in it.

[00:18:31] **HARVEY:** How do you work that?

[00:18:32] **LLOYD:** Very carefully. [laughter]

[00:18:35] **HARVEY:** What do you mean by very carefully?

[00:18:36] **LLOYD:** Well, you don't want to spill it all over yourself. You had to put on some aprons. It's a nasty job.

[00:18:42] **HARVEY:** Did you have special hooks for it? I've seen special hide hooks.

[00:18:46] **LLOYD:** No, no we didn't. You just kind of—because these all hides were laying flat, so you just pick them and put them on a board.

[00:18:54] **HARVEY:** Did you use hooks on them?

[00:18:57] **LLOYD:** They didn't want holes in them.

[00:18:59] **HARVEY:** I didn't think so.

[00:19:00] **LLOYD:** They didn't want holes in those hides. They had enough holes in them.

[00:19:02] **HARVEY:** So you used gloves?

[00:19:03] **LLOYD:** Yeah, I used gloves to pull them on.

[00:19:06] **HARVEY:** All right. Were you active in the union in [unintelligible] ?

[00:19:21] **LLOYD:** Very little. I was on the grievance committee. That was about it.

[00:19:25] **HARVEY:** When was that?

[00:19:27] **LLOYD:** All through when I worked in the hold and stuff. That's before I went steady. Once I went steady, I wasn't very active anymore.

[00:19:42] **HARVEY:** What year did you go steady approximately?

[00:19:45] **LLOYD:** When I go for [ITS or cooper?] , hon?

[00:19:55] **HARVEY:** You don't remember when you went steady.

[00:19:56] **LLOYD:** I'd go to work a little bit here and then I'd quit and I'd go back to the hold and I'd work a little and quit. So I don't know. It was 1970 or in the 70s.

[00:20:02] **HARVEY:** What did you do when you were on the grievance committee?

[00:20:17] **LLOYD:** We'd see how bad you were, and we'd penalize you accordingly. [laughter]

[00:20:24] **HARVEY:** Do you remember any particular case?

[00:20:26] **LLOYD:** No, it was just like five days off at the most. [Unintelligible] , you know. Anything bigger, it would go to the executive board. Richard was the one that was high in the politics. He was way up there.

[00:20:47] **HARVEY:** Rich Austin, yeah. And he's your brother-in-law?

[00:20:51] **LLOYD:** Brother-in-law.

[00:20:51] **HARVEY:** Do you remember the [ILWU] 1971 strike? There was a big strike in 71.

[00:20:51] **LLOYD:** I've been in them all, ever since the 50s. My dad was in the 49 and he come home all beat to shit. A little over 200 consolidated lumber got in a beef with someone. I don't know what happened.

[00:21:22] **HARVEY:** That was in 49?

[00:21:24] **LLOYD:** Yeah, I was just a kid then.

[00:21:31] **HARVEY:** And your dad worked longshore?

[00:21:33] **LLOYD:** Yeah.

[00:21:39] **HARVEY:** What period of time did your dad work as a longshoreman?

[00:21:45] **LLOYD:** Probably from before the war and through the war, and then he retired in 62.

[00:21:53] **HARVEY:** Did he tell you about the 1948 strike? It was a big longshore strike in 1948.

[00:21:58] **LLOYD:** Yeah, 48 and 49 both. That's when we got the medical.

[00:22:02] **HARVEY:** Yeah. Is that when he got beat up?

[00:22:05] **LLOYD:** There was a lot of guys that got beat up. I don't know if they started it or what. That depends on who's talking. [laughter]

[00:22:17] **HARVEY:** Right. What did you do during the 71 strike?

[00:22:25] **LLOYD:** Well, we cooked a lot. Had barbecues, sat there, and that was about it. Kept my eye on the gate.

[00:22:41] **HARVEY:** Since you weren't working longshore, where did you get your money at that time?

[00:22:45] **LLOYD:** Well, if you didn't have it, you had to borrow it.

[00:22:45] **HARVEY:** What did you do? Do you remember?

[00:22:48] **LLOYD:** Well, I was smart. My old man told me when I first started longshoring, he says, "Twenty dollars a week goes in the bank. No matter what." I never had to borrow a dime.



[00:23:05] **HARVEY:** That's great. So you rode through the strike on savings.

[00:23:07] **LLOYD:** Yeah.

[00:23:17] **HARVEY:** Any other big issues with the union that you remember that you were involved in? Were there any big political issues or any major issues—landmark events—in the union that you recall?

[00:23:30] **LLOYD:** What do you mean?

[00:23:32] **HARVEY:** Good question. I mean things like the 71 strike, for example, things that came later. When did you retire again?

[00:23:37] **LLOYD:** When did I retire, honey? 2002.

[00:23:48] **HARVEY:** Do you remember the lockout of that year? That's a big deal.

[00:23:50] **LLOYD:** Oh, that was 10 days. It was nothing. We just sat there at the gate.

[00:23:55] **HARVEY:** Were you yourself ever involved in any kind of politics?

[00:24:04] **LLOYD:** No.

[00:24:05] **HARVEY:** You retired in 2002. What do you do during retirement? Do you have anything special that you do during retirement?

[00:24:18] **LLOYD:** I used to golf all the time till my back went out. Now I don't do nothing right there. That's it.

[00:24:26] **HARVEY:** What is that?

[00:24:26] **LLOYD:** That chair.

[00:24:28] **HARVEY:** Oh, yeah. [laughter]

[00:24:29] **LLOYD:** That's it. I can't hardly do anything anymore.

[00:24:34] **HARVEY:** When did you get married?

[00:24:36] **LLOYD:** 56. Right, hon? 56.

[00:24:46] **HARVEY:** You're coming up on 60 years.

[00:24:49] **LLOYD:** Yeah, it's going to be 61 this [year] .

[00:24:53] **HARVEY:** Any kids? What do the kids do?

[00:24:56] **LLOYD:** My oldest son, he's a casual. He has a bar and he's a casual. My younger son works for the City of Long Beach, and my daughter, she's a registered nurse. She works for Memorial Hospital.

[00:25:12] **HARVEY:** Did you get involved in the Pensioners Association at all, the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association?

[00:25:20] **LLOYD:** No.

[00:25:22] **HARVEY:** How come?

[00:25:23] **LLOYD:** I don't know.

[00:25:32] **HARVEY:** Okay. [laughing] This is very helpful Let me ask you, what have I missed? What very important issues have I missed in your recollection?

[00:25:39] **LLOYD:** I don't know.

[00:25:41] **HARVEY:** You can't think of anything?

[00:25:42] **LLOYD:** No. I've led a good life.

[00:25:45] **HARVEY:** That's great. Looking back, what have you thought of your life in the union itself?

[00:25:53] **LLOYD:** Well, thank god for the union. Thank god for Harry Bridges. I don't know where I'd be if it wouldn't be for the union. I really don't.

[00:26:07] **HARVEY:** Very helpful. I think we kind of covered it.

[00:26:14] **LLOYD:** Okay.

[00:26:14] **HARVEY:** I much appreciate it.

[00:26:17] **LLOYD:** You're welcome.

[00:26:17] **HARVEY:** Anything you want to add?

[00:26:19] **LLOYD:** No, I don't think so.

[00:26:28] **HARVEY:** Thank you very much. I appreciate it, Lloyd.